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everything in their power to make its deliberations pleasant and successful.

The entire occasion was of such a character as to make one feel the enormous gain which the cause of peace has made in recent years, and to deepen one's faith in its early and complete triumph. The nations are moving more and more together; their interests are increasingly one; the old grudges and animosities between them are rapidly breaking down; the causes of war are being eradicated; the peoples are feeling deeply their kinship, their unity in a common humanity; they are getting their voice and speaking out their abhorrence for the cruel system which has so long burdened and destroyed them; they are determined that peace shall be organized on such solid bases that it can never more be broken; and they are making the governments feel that they are right and will have their way;—these are the thoughts and feelings with which one returns to his labors from such a week as that spent in peace work on the banks of the beautiful lake of Lucerne.

### **The Interparliamentary Conference at Brussels.**

Though now sixteen years old, the Interparliamentary Union for the promotion of arbitration and friendly relations among the nations is yet but little known to the general public. It is not a popular body, and does not therefore lend itself easily to picturesque reporting. But it is an organization of the utmost importance in bringing about the permanent establishment of peace among the nations. Its membership is entirely confined to members of parliament, who are practical statesmen that have experience in political affairs, and who are close to their respective governments and know the methods by which governments are moved and brought to act. The Union has grown quietly to large proportions, having now more than two thousand members. Its annual meetings, therefore, are occasions of the utmost interest to those occupied with the practical measures necessary to the establishment of general peace throughout the civilized world.

The Union held its thirteenth conference at Brussels, from the 28th to the 31st of August. The meetings were in the hall of the Belgian House of Representatives, and were presided over by the distinguished Belgian statesman, Mr. Auguste Beernaert, long speaker of the House. The attendance of members was larger than at the St. Louis Conference last year, even the American contingent, eighteen in number, being greater than that which went to St. Louis. Representatives were present for the first time from some of the South American states. Nearly three hundred delegates in all were present from the various national groups, and when they came together, filling practically every seat in the Chamber, the spectacle was a most interesting and inspiring one, and sug-

gested many thoughts about the coming parliament of man.

It seems almost a miracle that after so many gloomy centuries of hatred and discord and bloodshed, during which the nations have acted as if they were of different orders of beings and natural enemies, we should now see meeting regularly each year such an international body of statesmen as this. It is evidence, that cannot be gainsaid, that a new order of affairs has already come to the world, and that international order and peace are no longer a dream, but are now a matter of the most practical sort, the era of which has already begun.

The deliberations of the Conference were confined almost entirely to two subjects: that of a general treaty of obligatory arbitration and that of the creation of a regular parliament of the nations. Both these subjects secured their place on the program on the initiative of the American delegation. Indeed, outside of the American delegation there seemed to be little or no initiative in the Conference.

Mr. Bartholdt, president of the American group and the seventeen other members of the House of Representatives whom he induced to go with him, took a strong lead in the meeting from the very start. Their presence was much appreciated by the European members, for it was the first time since the organization of the Union that our national Legislature had been adequately represented, only one or two Congressmen having previously attended any of the conferences. Mr. Bartholdt received a royal welcome when he rose to speak, his work in connection with the St. Louis Conference last year and his remarkable success in increasing during the year the United States group from forty to two hundred members having marked him out as a wise and efficient leader.

The draft of a general treaty of obligatory arbitration, prepared by Mr. Bartholdt and submitted to the Conference, we print in full on another page, as well as Mr. Bartholdt's speech in explanation of it. We confess that the draft seems to us in certain particulars to be open to criticism. As a whole it is too complex and brings into connection with arbitration matters which do not seem naturally related to it. The provision in Article III., in regard to contraband of war, the opening and closing of hostilities, etc., would read very strangely in a convention of peaceful arbitration, however proper it might be, as the nations now are, in some other kind of agreement. Nor are we at all sure that there is any real demand for international Courts of First Instance. Diplomacy, either directly or through special commissions, easily deals with the class of cases which would go to these courts, and will deal with them more and more easily as the Hague Court develops and is more widely used. Machinery ought not to be multiplied unless there is real need of it.

But Mr. Bartholdt's draft is a serious and very able study of the subject, and we are all under great

obligations to him for having spent so much time during the past year in preparing it for the Brussels Conference. It will come to the attention of the New Hague Conference, as it well deserves to do, and will no doubt be of great utility in helping to shape the new arbitration convention which that Conference will find itself under the necessity of drafting.

The American proposition at Brussels for the creation of a regular international parliament awakened great interest in the Conference. It was very ably presented and supported by Mr. Bartholdt and four or five other members of the delegation who spoke. It was most encouraging to hear them one after another advocate in an unequivocal way the creation of such an international institution, already approved by the Massachusetts Legislature and other eminent bodies, which is sure in the near future to be created and to play a great part in the future development of civilization.

The proposition was not, however, formally approved by the Conference. Count Apponyi, the distinguished Hungarian statesman, and others, while in full sympathy with the purpose of the proposal, felt that the subject was a most important and at the same time difficult one. Anything that might be done in this direction must carefully provide for the preservation of national sovereignty and autonomy. The Conference finally decided to refer the subject, as well as that of the draft of an arbitration treaty, to a special committee, who should further study the subject and have power to call a meeting of the Executive Council of the Union, if this should seem advisable in order to get the subject properly before the next Hague Conference.

The action of President Roosevelt in taking the initiative for a new conference at The Hague, as he had promised the Interparliamentary deputation at Washington last year, as well as his effort to bring the Russo-Japanese war to an end, was warmly applauded by the Conference, and a cablegram of thanks and congratulation was sent him. There was a good deal of anxiety and fear among the members lest the peace negotiations at Portsmouth might fail. Some were very skeptical about the matter. The first word of the successful issue of the negotiations reached Brussels during the last evening, while a great reception by the municipality was going on in the Hôtel de Ville. The delegates were overjoyed at the news, and it was the principal subject of conversation during the evening. The American delegation was enthusiastically congratulated on every hand. Count Apponyi, who had been very doubtful of a successful outcome of the Portsmouth Conference, on seeing the cablegram, came almost in a run across the reception hall to congratulate the present writer that peace was assured and that our country had done such a noble service to humanity in bringing about

the happy result. He expressed very great admiration for President Roosevelt as a peacemaker, as did practically everybody whom the writer met in Europe.

The Conference was most hospitably received by the Belgian Interparliamentary group and the Brussels authorities, and the proceedings ended by a visit to the Exposition at Liège, where the last meeting, with luncheon, was held.

## The International Law Conference at Christiania.

Immediately following the Conference of the Interparliamentary Union at Brussels came the twenty-second Conference of the International Law Association at Christiania, from the 4th to the 7th of September. It proved to be one of the most successful meetings held by the Association in recent years. About eighty members out of the four hundred were present, representing ten different countries. A large number were of course from Norway, where much interest is taken in international law, especially in maritime law.

Unusual interest was added to the occasion by the fact that the meeting was held in the new building which has been constructed for the Nobel Institute and the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament. The building, which has a lecture hall, committee rooms, library rooms, and quarters for the Nobel Committee, has just been completed, and this was the first conference ever held in it. It was therefore a sort of inauguration service for the building which is destined to play a conspicuous part hereafter in the international peace movement, to the extension of which Mr. Nobel devoted a considerable portion of his great fortune. From this building will go out every December the announcement of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Conference was organized by the election of Justice F. V. N. Beichman, president of the Court of Appeal of Trondhjem, as president. Mr. J. Anderson Aars, president of the Exchange and Chamber of Commerce Committee, which had invited the Association to Norway, made the address of welcome, not only in the name of the Exchange and Chamber of Commerce, but also of the Barristers Association and the City Government, both of which contributed immensely to the success and pleasure of the meeting.

After an excellent address by the president of the Conference the remainder of the first day's session, after the election of vice-presidents and secretaries, was devoted to the subject of international arbitration and the work of the Norwegian government and parliament in promoting arbitration and neutrality. The paper on arbitration presented by Dr. W. E. Darby, secretary of the Peace Society, London, gave the details of all the latest phases of the development of the principle in its practical application in the settlement of controversies. The government and parliament of Norway were shown to have done admirable service in promoting arbitration, through their official approval of the principle, through the Interparliamentary Union, through their subventions to the Peace Bureau at Berne, etc.

On the second day the subjects considered were: "Neutral Trade in Contraband of War," "Coals as Con-